

Liaison

Library Association News-Sheet

News Editors: R. G. Surridge and D. R. Jamieson

August 1959

IRISH NEWS

IRISH LIBRARY ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

The Annual Conference of the Library Association of Ireland was held at Buncrana in Donegal in the last week of May. The Association represents members on both sides of the Border (including several members of the L.A.), and possibly the most successful session consisted of an excursion into Northern Ireland to see the reconstructed library of Magee University College in Londonderry. The Librarian, Dr. T. MacCallum Walker, M.A., Ph.D., F.L.A.I., is noted for his vigorous approach to library problems and he himself was responsible for designing his altered premises. The result is so obviously successful, aesthetically and functionally, that Dr. Walker ought to be an automatic choice to deliver a paper in Britain on the subject of the architect-librarian at work.

Papers were read to the Conference by the President, Mr. Feargus MacMurchada, Waterford County Librarian; Senator Anthony Barry, chairman of Cork City Library Committee; Mr. J. E. Gaffney, Borough Librarian of Dun Laoghaire; and Mr. Desmond Clarke, Librarian of the Royal Dublin Society. Most of them were obviously inspired in part by the publication of the Roberts Report and invited comparison between the conditions prevailing in Ireland and Britain. There was also criticism of the Library Council, a statutory body that has no counterpart in Britain. One obvious distinction between this Conference and one of the British Library Association (apart from the much more vigorous social activity of the former) was the almost total lack of reference to technical and commercial library services. The organization of the Conference

was in the highly efficient hands of the Association's honorary secretary, Miss Mairin O'Bryne, Librarian to the Bray Urban District Council, who in March of this year made a great impression by her excellent arrangements for the visit to Dublin of Library School students from Manchester, Leeds and Loughborough.

Northern Ireland Permits

The L.A. has been asked by the N.I. Library Advisory Council to discuss with other appropriate professional bodies the possibility of making a concerted approach to the Ministry of Labour in Northern Ireland, seeking exemption from the provisions of the Safeguarding of Employment Act (N.I.), 1947, on behalf of qualified applicants for posts there.

Preliminary enquiries have been made of various professional bodies who reported that no difficulty was being experienced by their members over work permits. Mr. I. Crawley (Belfast) attended the Membership Committee giving details of some of the difficulties that had been experienced and indicated that the position in regard to libraries was much improved. At this stage, therefore, the L.A. is taking no further action other than informing the Library Advisory Council of the results of its enquiries.

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At a meeting in the Library, Queen's College, Dundee, on May 2nd, Professor Fredson Bowers of the University of Virginia gave a stimulating address to the Group on the interdependence of scholar and librarian. The full text of this paper is to be published in a forthcoming issue of "Library Trends".

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Able, Baker. After the recent press conference attended by the two monkeys who were fired into outer space in an American rocket, it was reported that one monkey was seen walking away from the Library of Congress with a book under each arm. One book was the Bible, the other Darwin's *Origin of species*, and the monkey was heard muttering: "Am I my keeper's brother?"

BOOKAMATIC

From a description of the installation of the Addressograph-Multigraph book charging system, "Bookamatic", by Miss M. Cameron, in the *Ontario Library Bulletin*, May 1959.

The Bookamatic system involves the use of a pre-numbered disposable transaction slip, an embossed bookcard (which remains in the book, except for the actual moment of charging) and an embossed borrower's card. The latter carries the borrower's name, address and library membership expiry date.

The actual borrowing procedure requires the desk assistant to remove the bookcard and place it, together with the borrower's card, in their proper positions in the imprinter. A three-fold carbon interleaved transaction slip made especially to our specifications is positioned above the bookcard and the borrower's card. The handle of the imprinter is pushed down. Complete information about the book and the borrower is now recorded on the three copies of the transaction slip. One copy of the transaction slip is snapped out and put in the book pocket with the bookcard. The other two copies are the overdue notice and the library copy. These remain attached in their numerical order.

Upon the book's return, the transaction slip is removed from the pocket and the slips are then filed by number. This is the only filing required. Once filed, the slips are matched with the numerical file representing the books borrowed. When matched, the slips are destroyed as we know the book has been returned and the transaction is completed. Slips remaining in the file indicates book still out. When they become overdue, the copy marked **OVERDUE REMINDER** is removed and placed in a window envelope and mailed.

County Libraries Section Week-end School

The venue and dates for the 1960 Weekend School are the Keswick Training College at Norwich, and from 8th to 11th April, 1960. The Committee has chosen as subject for the school "The Function of the Headquarters in the County Library system".

North American Joint Conference

A Joint Conference of the Canadian and American Library Associations is to be held in Montreal, 1960. Mr. F. C. Tighe, who raised the matter at L.A. Council, is investigating the cost of a charter plane for interested British Librarians.

Quotes from Council

W. S. Haugh: "I would not wish to designate assistants as expectant and non-expectant librarians."

Miss F.E. Cook to Miss E. J. Willson on the long sitting Branch and Section Organization Committee: "It is the gift of prophecy you require."

John Jones, on imperfect copies received by libraries: "The information that we have obtained is itself imperfect."

Heard in the discussion on the Building Booklet soon to be produced: "This has to be a personal responsibility even though it must be an anonymous publication."

"There are certain advantages in being tied to a big sledgehammer."—**W. Tynemouth** on Nalgo.

T. E. Callender seeking the assurance that the new Chaucer House building will be designed by an architect: "We have a chance of a building that will be satisfactory to some; if designed by members of Council it will be disastrous; if by members a calamity, internally, externally and eternally."

E. Austin Hinton "It would be ungracious of me not to admit that in the canteen I am now able to obtain bread and cheese."

"My experience of P.R.O.'s is that you get a statement of the jam you had yesterday, the jam you'll get tomorrow but never of the jam you get today."—**J. Wilkie** in Finance Committee.

L. and H. C. BRANCH ELECTION

The *London Librarian* will not appear in August owing to the printing strike. For that reason we are including this note on the London and Home Counties Branch election.

Nominations for Membership of the Branch Committee for 1960 should reach the Hon. Secretary-Treasurer (Central Library, High Street, Gillingham, Kent), not later than 13th September. Nominations should be made in writing by two or more members of the Branch and these members shall be responsible for securing the candidate's consent to the nomination. If an election is necessary voting papers will be issued to Branch members before 8th November.

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NEW L.A. LIBRARIAN

We congratulate Mr. P.W. Plumb, F.L.A., Director of the South Eastern Regional Library Bureau, N.C.L., on his appointment as Librarian and Research Officer to the Library Association, to succeed Mr. Henrik Jones later this year.

Mr. Plumb who is 33, is married with 3 children. Apart from reading, his hobbies are football, local history and the theatre. We wish him every success in his new post.

Masterpieces Come To Light

Rumours, filtering through to the West during the past five or six years, of vast quantities of uncatalogued manuscript music in the cellars of the Prague National Museum, were found to be perfectly correct by a correspondent of *The Times* who visited Czechoslovakia recently. After working a week in the main part of the library, he was admitted to the uncatalogued material.

"The sight that greeted me quite staggered the imagination", he writes. "Room after room containing gigantic piles of manuscript music, tied up in bundles, or stored in cavernous cupboards which literally sagged with the weight. Conservatively estimated, the Prague National Museum now contains three times as many music manuscripts as does the British Museum. This material is all part of the confiscated archives of the great Czech monasteries, such as Osek, Broumov, Alzbetinky, Brevnov, and of former aristocratic families, including the famous Wallerstein family.

Starting to work through this frightening amount of material, it soon became apparent that not only were these sources quantitatively impressive but they were among the oldest and most reliable, textually. I soon stumbled across authentic Haydn copies, prepared by the composer's own copyist Joseph Elsler, and written on paper specially prepared in Prince Esterhazy's own paper mill. A few minutes later I came across the first lost Haydn work, in the Clam Gallas Collection: it was one of the early divertimenti for wind band. Together with this lost work, the existence of which I had known by means of Haydn's *Entwurf-Katalog* (wherein he registered the thematic beginnings of many works which can no longer be traced), were several other Haydn wind band divertimenti which are completely unknown and which are obviously genuine.

"Fifty Years to Catalogue"

In the Lobkowitz Archives I saw the original scores of Mozart's Handel arrangements which he made for van Swieren's Vienna Sunday concerts. The general editor of the new Collected Works of Mozart had been to Czechoslovakia recently and had found a number of hitherto unknown Mozart sources, including the autograph of cadenzas to the Concerto for two pianos in E flat (K.365). While I was examining the Mozart sources, one of the librarians explained how hopeless was the situation.

'It will take us fifty years to get this material even catalogued', he said. 'The other day we were examining a crate of material from some castle near Prague, and we found a list of receipts of the year 1787. One of them showed that Mozart's *Don Giovanni* had been performed privately at this castle before the premiere in Count Nostiz's Theatre'. Christopher Raeburn, the English Mozart scholar who was with me in Prague, nearly had a fit at this news.

'Where is this crate?' Raeburn gasped, stumbling over a pile of Haydn symphony manuscripts which I had carefully laid aside.

'Oh, we looked at this document and stuffed it back in the crate', the librarian said hopelessly. 'What are we supposed to do? There's so much material here that it would take even German musicologists three generations to sort it out. But perhaps I can find it again.' And he wandered into another room and began to poke into one of the yawning cupboards.

The next day we found another unknown Haydn work, a Cassatio in D major. The same afternoon we uncovered a pile of symphonies by the brilliant eighteenth-century Czech composer Vanhal, in the midst of which was lying Haydn's lost organ Concerto in C major. And in the material of the Osek Monastery, which contained 86 contemporary Haydn sources, we found a beautiful Magnificat in G minor by Antonio Vivaldi.

One of the most important collections outside Prague is in the former Piaristen Monastery at Kremsier, and there we found another set of sources for the lost and unknown Haydn wind band divertimenti in the Clam Gallas Collection at Prague. The stately Schwarzenburg fortress of Cesky Krummau contains enormous music archives; and time seems to have stopped about the year 1800. In this Rip-van-Winkle atmosphere, we were taken to the tiny castle chapel, where there is a baroque organ in which every single pipe is in its original state.

Duties include organ-blowing

The organ has a brilliantly clear and sparkling sound, especially the reeds, and after five minutes of playing Bach with this intoxicating *pleno* sound, we confess that we forgot that the air was not being supplied electrically till we turned round and saw the perspiring but smiling face of the librarian."

(From *The Times*, May 6th, 1959.)

BRIEFLY

The death has occurred, at the age of 80, of **Mr. B. J. Purnell**, late Secretary and Librarian of the London Library. Entering the Bodleian as an assistant at the age of 14, Mr. Purnell went to the London Library in 1905, where he worked for 45 years, serving as Librarian from 1940 until his retirement in 1950. He was much concerned with the editing of a now famous reference tool, the *Catalogue of the London Library*.

Dr. van der Grinten, well known for his development of the Retocce document copying system, has received the Gold Medal of the Royal Institute of Engineers of the Netherlands for his researches in the field of document reproduction. It is the first time that such an award has been made in Holland in the field of documentation techniques.

The following are among awards recently announced by the Trustees of the Leverhulme Research Fellowships:

G. W. Beard, Leeds City Art Gallery: the documentation of interior decoration with a dictionary of craftsmen working in the British Isles, 1600-1900.

F. J. Norton, under-librarian in charge of foreign books, Cambridge University Library: the history of painting in Spain, 1501-1520.

R. Bryn Williams, cataloguer, National Library of Wales: preparation of authoritative history of the Welsh settlement in Patagonia.

Dr. S. R. Ranganathan has been appointed to the Board of Advisory Editors of the journal *American Documentation*.

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Messrs. L. R. McColvin and W. B. Paton have been appointed delegates to the I.F.L.A. Conference in Warsaw, 14th-19th September, 1959.

Mr. M. C. Pottinger (Chairman, Publications Committee) has accepted the L.A.'s invitation to represent the Association on a visit to Russian libraries, under the auspices of the Soviet Relations Committee of the British Council. Arrangements are being made for visits of Russian librarians to this country.

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Mrs. Norris Bentham (née Suthers), formerly an assistant at St. Marylebone Public Library, has been elected a Labour Councillor in the City of Westminster.

Mr. K. C. Harrison, Borough Librarian of Hendon, has been appointed a Vice-President of the West Sussex County Cricket Club.

Edinburgh are providing a private library of 100 of "the cream of new books", "mostly 'improving', but including a little fiction", in the smoking room of the City Chambers, as a lending service for busy Town Councillors who do not have time to visit the City Libraries.

Man the Stockade! The Chairman of **Falmouth's** library committee has warned Cornwall County that Falmouth will put up a strong fight to resist any attempt by the County to take them over, in implementation of one of the recommendations of the Roberts Report. The Chairman added: "I might say the war is on from now". There was similar, militant talk of resistance at **Darwen**, where the Mayor warned Lancashire County Council that "The libraries committee is watching this matter very closely and I know that I have the whole council behind me when I say we shall resist any step in this direction very strongly".

The inter-availability of tickets scheme was given a fresh twist when a woman returning from Belgium found she had lost her passport. Police advised her to produce some other proof of identity. On proffering her ticket for Holborn public library she was passed through the barrier with a smile. At Dover she met with the same courtesy and was waved through the control without more ado.

Lewisham have extended their loan period for books from two weeks to a month. One of the few other authorities in the country to offer this length of loan is **Kensington**, who went over to this period recently in anticipation of a use of tokens for the transaction of all loans.

Rowley Regis. The Library Association is to press for a reply from the General Secretary of Nalگو on the attitude of his association in the appointment of Borough Librarian. The L.A. Membership Committee discussed this case in January. A statement appeared in the February *Liaison* informing members that the entire file of correspondence on the Rowley Regis affair was being sent to the Secretary of Nalگو.

Demonstrators from the Peace Pledge Union and the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament picketed the public library at **Wimbledon** recently as a protest at the refusal of the Council to purchase the paper *Peace News* for display in the reference library. The organizers of the demonstration, who say that the paper is "not Communist", say they intend to continue picketing the library every Saturday until the Council change their decision.

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NALGO Backs New Salary Claim

SO far as the library profession is concerned, the outstanding item on the Agenda of this year's annual NALGO Conference held in Scarborough, was that relating to the recent salary award for Chartered Librarians. Three motions were on the Paper, one in the name of the National Executive Committee, using the Roberts Report as a basis of re-opening negotiations; the second in the name of the Nottingham Branch, supported by Solihull and their respective District Committees; and a third in the name of the North Western and N. Wales District Committee amending the Nottingham motion.

Certain raises

A meeting of librarian delegates had previously been held at the Central Library, Scarborough, at which the problem was thoroughly aired. It was decided that the Nottingham Branch would move its motion and would incorporate the amendment. It was further agreed to have a similar meeting at each Conference in future. There is no doubt that had there been more time many more motions on library grading would have reached the Conference, and Nottingham are to be congratulated in formulating their motion and transmitting it in time to be put on the Agenda.

History of negotiations

In moving the NEC motion to the Conference their spokesman, Mr. G. R. Ashton outlined the history of the award since 1951 and went on to say that for the last two years the matter has been raised at every meeting of the National Joint Council. Originally an attempt was made to get agreement on APT II for a staff of three. On about six occasions the employers were not prepared to move; the number they considered appropriate was more in the region of twelve staff. Early in 1959 there ap-

peared to be some softening of attitude on the part of the employers but even so they were only prepared to consider an award on the basis of seven staff. Since a figure of five had been mentioned in earlier discussions with the L.A. representatives, an attempt at compromise was eventually agreed and the present figure of six was accepted. Mr. Ashton paid a tribute to the L.A. for its close co-operation throughout the negotiations. The staff side were not happy with the result but it was felt that no more could have been achieved at the time and any change that benefited the membership of NALGO, even if it was only one member, was better than nothing. The L.A. had been promised that if anything came along to alter the position, the situation would be reviewed immediately.

The Roberts Report was considered to contain a valuable contribution to the matter since it referred to salaries and to parity with the teaching profession. It was not known, however, if or when the Roberts Report would receive Government support.

A Fresh approach

The NEC had decided that a new approach could now be made and, after two meetings, had met the L.A. representatives. Complete agreement had been reached on a new line of approach and a plan is now being knocked into shape. It will then pass through the Service Conditions Committee of the NEC and a claim then made to the employers. In the circumstances Mr. Ashton hoped that the other motion and its amendment would be withdrawn. While the NEC accepted the spirit of the

Some of the items delayed by the recent printing strike have been included in this issue. It is appreciated that these items have probably little news value at home, but it is thought they may still be of interest particularly to overseas readers.

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